CAROLLA SURPRISED TO BE IN THE NEWS
COMEDY {page 26}

REGIFTING ISN'T ALWAYS WRONG
GIFT GUIDE {pages 20-24}

METRO MAGIC
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Who abandoned these puppies?

Emaciated dogs suffering from severe starvation and dehydration found in Mattapan Animal Rescue League of Boston suspects an underground breeder is responsible Public's help is sought while investigation gets under way {page 02}

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Donner, left, and Blitzen were abandoned in Mattapan last week and are being nursed back to health at the Animal Rescue League of Boston.

News

Time gives power to the people

Protesters get top billing in news mag's yearly wrap-up Arab Spring, Occupy Wall Street get mentions {page 12}

Lindsay ditches on DeGeneres

That 'exclusive interview' thing isn't going to happen after all {page 14}

Obama lauds troop service

Presidential pep talk as US pulls out of Iraq {page 08}

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BPS aide may have more bad touches

City officials announced that a Boston Public School aide will be charged in court tomorrow and also revealed that he allegedly indecently assaulted another student last year

LaShawn Hill will appear in Dorchester District Court on a charge of lewd and lascivious behavior.

The mother of a 14-year-old non-verbal autistic student at the Harbor School in Dorchester said she was told a female teacher walked into a break room Monday and found her son with his pants around his knees and Hill with his pants open.

Officials said Superintendent Carol Johnson was notified by a teacher yesterday that Hill may have had inappropriate contact with another student at a different school last year.

Hill has been a paraprofessional for seven years and worked at four different Boston schools.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Menino

"It's disturbing to me as Mayor, but more as a father and grandfather," said Mayor Thomas Menino.

BPS has moved to fire Hill and police are investigating.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON

Help needed in dog abandonment

- Rescue League says three dogs abandonded in Mattapan last week
- Investigation underway
- Dogs were sick, suffering from starvation

Investigators from an animal rescue group are asking for the public's help in locating a man believed to be abandoning starving dogs in Mattapan.

Three pit bull-type dogs in extremely poor health were abandoned last week in Mattapan near the Mount Hope Cemetery.

The first abandoned dog, which was given the name Mattie, was found by a cemetery worker who watched a black car drive away from the dog and left it outside on a day where nearly an inch of rain fell in Boston.

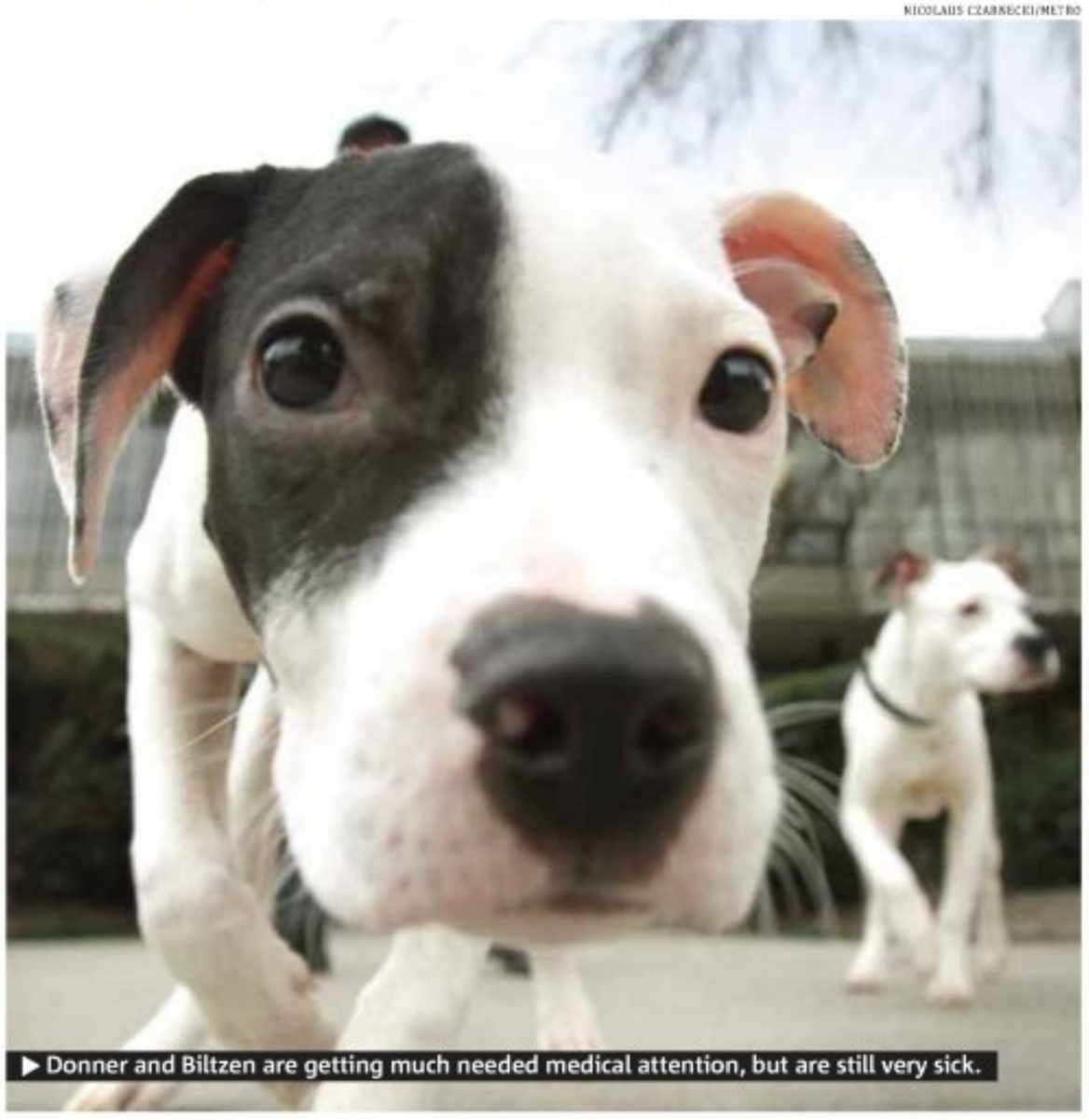
Days later two more dogs were turned over to the rescue league after a woman found them on a street in Mattapan.

All of the dogs were starving and "ravenous" for water. They also had no muscle tone and their bodies started feeding off of themselves.

"These dogs suffered," said Lt. Alan Borgal of the Animal Rescue League of Boston, which is caring for two of the dogs. "That's a cruel abandonment."

Mattie, 2, is being cared for at a Tufts animal center in Walpole. The other two dogs, Donner and Blitzen, are about 5-months-old and are being treated at the rescue league's South End facility to address their issues related to their starvation.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO



▶ Donner and Biltzen are getting much needed medical attention, but are still very sick.

They are doing better, but are still recovering.

Borgal said that because of the injuries and circumstances, the abandonment may be from an underground breeder.

"Pit bull-type puppies are popular and it's not unique to Boston," Borgal said, adding that he's seen similar cases in Chelsea, Lynn and Lowell. "It's a quick way to make money, but they're selling puppies too young or in poor health. It's a buyer beware situation."

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
michael.naughton@metro.us

Got info?

- **Anyone with information** on the car or abandonments can call 617-226-5610.
- **Anyone wishing to donate** to the cost of care for the dogs can call 617-426-9170.

In the news

$900

The approximate cost of the dinner Patriots wide receiver Chad Ochocinco treated an Emerson College social media class to Tuesday to discuss the power of Twitter. A Cambridge sandwich shop shut down for the party with professor David Gerzof Richard and over 30 students. METRO

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MORE GIFT WRAPPING TIPS

▶ Reyes

One 'most wanted' caught

WORCESTER. One down, nine to go.

A day after the state Probation Department released its newest list of most wanted probationers, one of the men was captured.

Jose Reyes, 32, of Worcester, was wanted for assault and battery with a knife.

He was caught by state police at his mother's Worcester home yesterday morning. METRO

Orange Line strands hundreds

BOSTON. A power failure on the Orange Line early yesterday impacted the rides of hundreds of people.

The MBTA said shuttles were used to ship workers between Forest Hills and Ruggles Station.

Some riders reportedly took cabs while others hopped the Commuter Rail to get to their destination.

Power was restored in two hours. METRO

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From points A to B without the sleepy T

BU grad and buddies launch student bus service for transport after the bars close Group wants to bring business to other college campuses

Students at Boston University this semester didn't have to worry about clambering out of Hub bars before the T closed down just to hitch a ride home.

Ryan Kaplan had buses waiting for them.

Kaplan, co-founder of Boston Nightlife Express, launched the shuttle business with several close friends just months after graduating from BU last year.

Since its inception, BNE has been shipping students from campus to bars and back to save them from hailing a cab or scrambling to catch a Green Line train.

"We were of age, and there was a very blatant neglect in nighttime transportation. It's such a tiny city, and it shouldn't be so hard to get around."
KAPLAN

Book your ride

The service is down for the winter break, but it will be back in the spring.
www.bnebus.com

"You can enjoy your night until bars close at 2 a.m., and the bus is there when you leave," said Michael Powers, 21, a BU senior who has used the services.

For $5 per ride, BNE also puts deals together with local bars so students can sneak to the front of the line after arriving by bus, directly to the door.

"You can plan in advance and you can go online and book a ticket on our website — but you can also just show up, pay and hop on," said Kaplan.

Next semester, Kaplan and crew will be trying to extend the service to other schools to solve their late-night transportation problems.

"It's a blatant need," he said. "I'm sure tons of students going out wished there was a more convenient way to get back home."

STEVE ANNEAR
steve.annear@metro.us

COURTNEY SACCO/METRO

▶ The shuttle bus was filled with happy revelers on a recent weekend night.

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NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

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Conductor gets nod for blowing whistle on scam

- Off-color ticket led to end of a $4 million scheme with false T passes
- MBTA police recognized Commuter Rail employee's outstanding efforts

All it took was quick thinking for John Slyman to stop the biggest MBTA fare evasion scheme in the history of the Hub transit agency.

Slyman, a commuter rail conductor, was awarded commendation yesterday by Transit police for his role in uncovering a multimillion-dollar scam that led to the arrest and indictment of four suspects accused of printing out and selling thousands of fake monthly T passes.

"It feels good," said Slyman. "I never expected anything of this magnitude to come from it."

Slyman, an eight-year veteran at the Massachusetts Bay Commuter Rail, was tipped off by a discolored T pass last March.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Slyman

Slyman said when he questioned the passenger about the ticket, she was evasive — which made him suspicious.

"I knew right away something was wrong."

Slyman notified his superior, who brought the matter to the attention of MBTA police and led to an investigation by the attorney general's office.

"We ask our passengers and our staff to always stay alert, because you never know when information fits into a scheme like this," said Transit Police Chief Paul Macmillan. "All it took was [Slyman] taking that one extra second to check that pass."

STEVE ANNEAR
steve.annear@metro.us

20K Number of false passes printed as part of the alleged scheme. According to police, the passes were authentic, but the T collected no revenue.

Better recognize

- **Five Good Samaritan T riders were also recognized** yesterday for helping save the life of a man who went into cardiac arrest at a Red Line station in late October.
- **The passengers were credited by MBTA police** for performing CPR on the heart attack victim until ambulance units arrived.

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Obama: We leave Iraq proud

President encourages troops as they return home from site of a foreign war begun in 2003 • Fulfills one key campaign promise • But critics say he is making a mistake by sticking to withdrawal timetable drawn up by Bush

President Barack Obama welcomed home some of the last U.S. troops from Iraq yesterday, marking a symbolic end to the nearly nine-year war that strained America's armed forces and damaged its standing worldwide.

Addressing soldiers at Fort Bragg, N.C., Obama stopped short of declaring victory in Iraq but called the winding down of the conflict "an extraordinary achievement."

"It is harder to end a war than to begin one," he told about 3,000 soldiers as they punctuated his speech with cheers and hollers.

Despite lingering questions about whether the United States should have invaded the country, the last American troops "will cross the border out of Iraq with their heads held high," Obama said.

As of this week, there were about 5,500 U.S. troops left in Iraq, down from more than 170,000 at the height of the war that Obama's predecessor started in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Leaving Iraq fulfills a pledge that helped Obama win the presidency in 2008 and allows the White House to focus more on Afghanistan as well as economic worries at home, where the high jobless rate will be a major concern for voters next year.

But critics have accused Obama of ignoring warnings from U.S. and Iraqi military commanders about the dangers of a full departure by the end of this year, the timetable that Bush's advisers had laid out and to which the current president has stuck. REUTERS

Quoted

"Of course, Iraq is not a perfect place. But we are leaving behind a sovereign, stable and self-reliant Iraq, with a representative government that was elected by its people."
PRESIDENT OBAMA

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▶ U.S. President Barack Obama speaks at a tribute to the troops at Fort Bragg, N.C.

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Immigration battle to test fed powers

The Supreme Court's promised ruling next year on Arizona's immigration crackdown could turn on how much a state can intrude on federal enforcement powers.

The country's highest court agreed on Monday to decide whether federal immigration laws take precedence and so pre-empt Arizona's law boosting the power of local police to crack down on immigrants.

The Arizona law, passed in 2010, requires police to check the immigration status of anyone they detain and suspect of being in the country illegally. Other parts require immigrants to carry their papers at all times and ban people without proper documents from soliciting for work in public places.

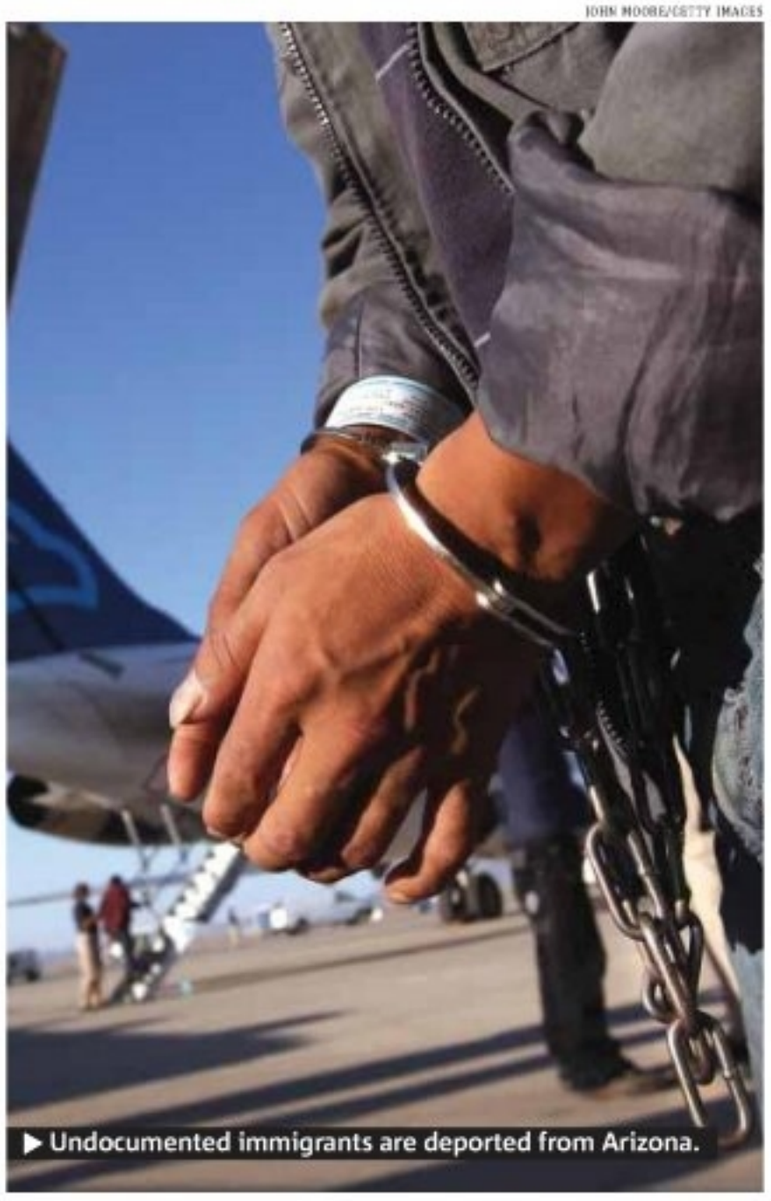
A key issue is the legal doctrine of pre-emption, interpreted to mean that federal laws trump conflicting state laws. REUTERS

States right?

Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer argues the state law authorizes cooperation with the U.S. government and that its sanctions consciously parallel federal law.

The U.S. government's top Supreme Court lawyer, Donald Verrilli, disagrees.

JOHN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Undocumented immigrants are deported from Arizona.

Ron Paul campaign is gaining steam

▶ Paul

AMHERST, N.H. Republican presidential hopeful Ron Paul declared yesterday his campaign was "peaking at the right time" as polls show him closing in on the two perceived front-runners.

The libertarian congressman from Texas complained that pundits were dismissing his longshot campaign prematurely and sounded optimistic about catching former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich. REUTERS

Tax tussle gets nastier

WASHINGTON. The United States yesterday faced the prospect of an imminent government shutdown for the third time this year as a year-end fight between Republican and Democratic lawmakers in Congress over taxes and spending turned nastier.

Democrats, led by President Barack Obama, are refusing to sign off on a bipartisan $1 trillion government funding bill that would keep federal agencies operating beyond Friday. They first want Republicans to agree to a compromise deal to extend a payroll tax cut for 160 million Americans. REUTERS

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Signs of the Time: Protesters honored

In a busy year marked by popular revolt on all of Earth's habitable continents, Time magazine cover recognizes the people putting boots on the ground

From the Arab Spring to the Occupy Wall Street movement, "The Protester" was named Time magazine's 2011 Person of the Year yesterday.

Time defines the Person of the Year as someone who, for better or for worse, influences the events of the year.

"Is there a global tipping point for frustration? Everywhere, it seems, people said they'd had enough," Time Editor Rick Stengel said in a statement.

"They dissented; they demanded; they did not despair, even when the answers came back in a cloud of tear gas or a hail of bullets. They literally embodied the idea that individual action can bring collective, colossal change," he said.

On almost every continent, 2011 has seen an almost unprecedented rise in both peaceful and sometimes violent unrest.

Protesters in a lengthening list of countries including Israel, India, Chile, China, Britain, Spain and now the United States all increasingly link their actions explicitly to the popular revolutions that have shaken up the Middle East. REUTERS

Runner-up

Admiral William McRaven, head of U.S. Special Operations Command and overall commander of the secret U.S. mission into Pakistan in May that killed al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, came in at second place on the Time list.

metro MAN AND WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2011

Dozens of Metro readers voted for the Occupy protestors to be named Metro's Person of the Year. The Occupy movement has now opened a distinct gap over Apple co-founder Steve Jobs, with Congresswoman Gabby Giffords in third place. Vote from a shortlist of Jobs, Occupy or Giffords by sending an e-mail to mwoty@metro.us.

TIME MAGAZINE

▶ Time recognizes the power of the people.

"They dissented; they demanded; they did not despair, even when the answers came back in a cloud of tear gas or a hail of bullets." STENGEL

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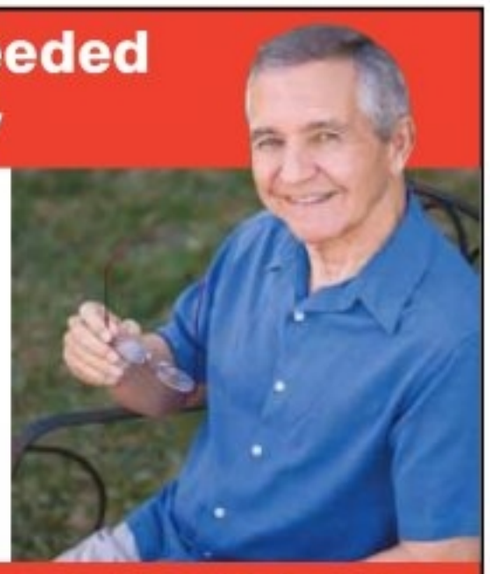

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myentertainment

2

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Lindsay bails, but Paris Jackson fills in

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

▶ Sure, she didn't make "Ellen," but Lindsay Lohan did remember to make her probation hearing yesterday. Baby steps!

Remember that "exclusive" interview **Lindsay Lohan** was going to do on "Ellen" — the only media appearance she agreed to do to promote her new Playboy magazine spread? Well, she missed it. Of course she did! Why am I wasting your time with this news? (Honestly, because nothing else is really happening. Sorry.)

Anyway, her rep says the reason she didn't make the show was because she "was delayed in Hawaii due to a travel-related issue. Lindsay offered to tape 'Ellen' tomorrow, but the show was unable to shift things around and tomorrow is their last day of taping for the season." The show's producers are less than pleased, according to Gossip Cop. "Not a call or an apology from Lindsay," a source close to the show says.

However, the producers scored a coup de grace and got **Paris Jackson** (**Michael Jackson**'s oldest child) to fill in for Lohan. It's Jackson's first solo television appearance, and it will air today. The 13-year-old talked about her role in the fantasy film "Lundon's Bridge and the Three Keys." She says her decision to act was due to her father. "My dad was in the movie 'Moonwalker' and I knew he could sing really well, but I didn't know he could act. I saw that and I said, 'Wow, I want to be just like him,'" she revealed.

She did admit that she was less than thrilled with his choice to put them in masks as kids. "I'm like, 'This is stupid. Why am I wearing a mask?'" Paris said. "But I kind of realized the older I got, like, he only tried to protect us."

Kutcher's fling admits she was wrong

Well, this is a first: A fame tart is actually admitting to doing (gasp!) the wrong thing. Despite the $200,000 she reportedly earned for dishing on her affair with **Ashton Kutcher**, **Sarah Leal** is regretting the decision to go public. "I got fired from my job. I am no longer friends with my best friend, who was my roommate, because it caused so many problems and I had to move out," Leal tells Fox411. "I had no idea what I was getting myself into." But she advises observers to think twice before rushing to judgment on her actions. "I wasn't thinking clearly. He was a good-looking guy and it was stupid," she says of the fling. "Most 22-year-old girls in my position would have done the same thing."

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Melanie Brown is modernizing her seasonal greeting, Lindsay Lohan leads a very interesting life and Demi Moore is keeping her Twitter handle.

▶ **@OfficialMelB:** ok so i think i'm defoo going with the video xmas card,ok family lets get this done in the next week or so,will keep you guys posted!

▶ **@lindsaylohan:** Is this for real??? My friend has a trained cheetah in his car ... That's nuts!!!!!!!!

▶ **@mrskutcher:** changing my twitter name isn't a top priority right now. sorry it bothers so many of u. should I not tweet until I do?does it really matter?

Talking points

Jolie to get pregnant again?

While six kids may seem like plenty, **Angelina Jolie** and **Brad Pitt** aren't necessarily done building their family. "Nothing planned at the moment, but we just don't know," Jolie tells Marie Clare magazine. "I could end up pregnant." In the meantime, she's got plenty of nice things to say about the man in her life. "[Brad] has expanded my life in ways I never imagined. We built a family. He is not just the love my life, he is my family. I hold that very dear," Jolie says.

▶ Anthony

Marc Anthony is stressed

Jennifer Lopez has moved on from ex-husband **Marc Anthony** with the help of a younger man, backup dancer **Casper Smart**. And Anthony is reportedly "going nuts" about it, according to Us Weekly. "He has fits and tantrums and is very stressed," a source says. "[He's] lost a lot of weight." For the record, a source for Anthony insists he has "been the same weight most of his life."

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DOROTHY ROBINSON'S WORD BLOG

Lorre looks deep into himself

Looking back on the blowup between **Charlie Sheen** and "Two and a Half Men," the show's creator, **Chuck Lorre**, has changed his views on his former colleague and friend. "Every time he got himself into trouble, we believed that there was healing that was going to come. I certainly believed that sobriety is something that he wants in his life, and I was wrong," Lorre tells TV Guide magazine. "You couldn't do that much cocaine and work. It was heartbreaking to be around here then. I didn't want to be writing a sitcom while my friend died. Or worse, hurt someone else. We couldn't be complacent. There was a tragedy unfolding right in front of us. ... If you're looking the other way, you're responsible."

A handprint ceremony featuring four fingers

1. Anton Yelchin attended the "Hand and Footprint Ceremony" of the Smurfs at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, Calif., on Tuesday.

2. Melania Trump attended the Philadelphia Style Magazine holiday issue release party at The Ritz-Carlton in Philadelphia, on Tuesday.

3. LeAnn Rimes arrived at The House Of Blues where the city of West Hollywood proclaimed Dec. 13 as "NOH8 Day" on Tuesday.

4. Glenn Close attended the Giorgio Armani & Cinema Society screening of "Albert Nobbs" at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City on Tuesday.

5. Meryl Streep, who portrays former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in the upcoming biographical film "The Iron Lady," attended the film's New York premiere at the Ziegfeld Theater in New York City on Tuesday.

6. Audrey Tautou attended the premiere of "La Delicatesse" in Paris, France, on Tuesday.

7. Apl.de.ap of the Black Eyed Peas celebrated his birthday at The Conga Room at L.A. Live in Los Angeles, on Tuesday. The event also saw the official launch of his "We Can Be Anything" education advocacy campaign.

1: ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ; 2: GILBERT CARRASQUILLO; 3: ALBERT L. ORTEGA; 4: STEPHEN LOVEKIN; 5: LARRY BUSACCA; 6: PASCAL LE SEGRETAIN; 7: DAVID LIVINGSTON

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myentertainment

TV watch list

'The Year with Katie Couric'

SPECIAL. With Katie Couric and People magazine teaming up to present this year-in-review recap, expect such significant events as the death of Osama bin Laden to receive near-equal billing with the 2011 antics of the Kardashians.
9 p.m., ABC

ABC/HEIDI GUTMAN

▶ Katie Couric, right, revisits the headlines of 2011 with "Bridesmaids" star Kristin Wiig.

'A Charlie Brown Christmas'

SPECIAL. It's just not Christmas without Charlie Brown's sad little tree and Linus' message of love. **8 p.m., ABC**

'It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia'

COMEDY. The Gang makes one last attempt to salvage their high-school reputations at their reunion in a manner that pretty much ensures their reputations as adults are permanently sullied.
Season finale, 10 p.m., FX

AMBER RAY

5 Reasons to hit the movies this weekend

Must-see

COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

1 'Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows'
Holmes (Robert Downey Jr.) and Watson (Jude Law) pick up where they left off, and this time they're after dastardly Professor Moriarty along with Rachel McAdams and Noomi Rapace.

2 'Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol'
Tom Cruise may be deep into his 40s, but that hasn't stopped the still impeccably fit actor from performing most of his own stunts in this fourth installment of the series. With a bombing of the Kremlin incorrectly blamed on his team, Ethan Hunt (Cruise) and his team have to go underground.

3 'Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked'
The chipmunks and the chipettes go all "Cast Away" when marooned on an island after a cruise ship accident.

4 'Arthur Christmas'
Just how does Santa get all those presents delivered in one night? With a S.W.A.T. team of elves, of course! "Arthur Christmas" answers all the burning questions you've ever had about Claus and the gang.

5 'New Year's Eve'
The director that brought us "Valentine's Day" last year turns his eye toward the other night that everyone is inevitably disappointed by.

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Hundreds of new jobs move from China to Ohio

Jobs return home as abandoned Hoover plant reopened

North Canton, Ohio

Thousands of EdenPURE® heaters are rolling off the assembly line every day in North Canton, Ohio. Yet only 6 months ago, this factory floor sat empty and abandoned.

The Hoover Company's flagship manufacturing plant in North Canton, Ohio produced sweepers for over 100 years. Thousands of local families depended on those manufacturing jobs and the city still feels the effects from Hoover's shutdown in 2008.

Now there is new hope thanks to the popularity of the EdenPURE® Portable Heater. In September production started in North Canton at the site of the shuttered Hoover plant. Since the opening, more new jobs and production lines have been added, bringing the workforce to over 300.

ONN TV spoke with North Canton native Hope Paolini, General Manager of the new facility. Paolini knows the importance of manufacturing jobs to her city. "It's part of our fabric. Our high school is named after the Hoover Company."

Her grandfather once worked in the factory. In fact, almost everyone in town had someone in the family that worked there. "That's how people identify themselves. They identify themselves with their career, and it's just so important to bring some of that back," said Paolini.

Paolini said that it gives her chills walking through the old factory. "It's so incredibly humbling to see where so many jobs were housed and lost. We have to succeed."

EdenPURE® Heaters roll off the assembly line in North Canton, Ohio.

EdenPURE® ranked #1 in North America

Save $192 – biggest savings ever

Bob Vila, America's Favorite Home Improvement Expert, North Canton, Ohio

I know why millions of Americans are saving on their heating bills with the EdenPURE® Infrared Portable Heater.

And ***now* you can save up to $192, our lowest price ever** on the new 2012 EdenPURE® Personal Heater. The heater I personally rank #1 in North America.

And, I'm proud to add, the new and improved EdenPURE® is made in the U.S.A. here in North Canton, Ohio.

The engineers at EdenPURE® listened to their millions of customers. Through old-fashioned American ingenuity the new EdenPURE® is more efficient to save you even more money.

Now heat a larger room more efficiently with a 14% increase in square footage, from 300 to 350 square feet. Plus the safest heater in the world became even safer thanks to EdenPURE®'s American engineers. And the good folks at EdenPURE® even reopened an abandoned factory in the heart of Ohio providing much needed jobs for hundreds of workers.

For over 30 years as your home improvement television host, I have reviewed and experienced thousands of products. I have an EdenPURE® in my home and found it to be a very safe and reliable source of portable heat. This is one of those few comfort investments I can recommend for your home that will truly pay dividends.

We all know heating costs are expected to remain at record levels. The cost of heating our homes will continue to be a significant burden on the family budget. The *EdenPURE® can cut your heating bills*, and pay for itself in a matter of weeks and then start putting a great deal of extra money in your pocket after that.

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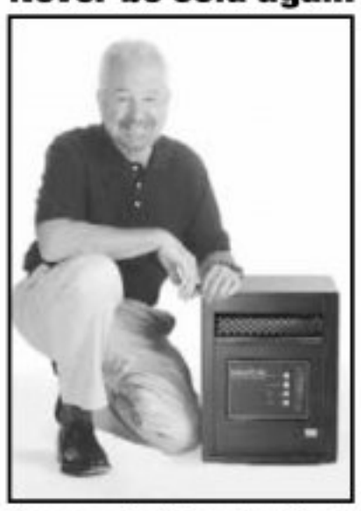

Firemen and safety professionals choose EdenPURE®. We all read about space heaters and the danger of fire. The EdenPURE® has no exposed heating elements that can cause a fire. And your pet may be just like my dog that has reserved a favorite spot near the EdenPURE®. – *Bob Vila*

With over one million satisfied customers around the world, the new EdenPURE® heats better, faster, saves more on heating bills, and runs almost silent.

A major cause of residential fires in the United States is portable heaters. Fire and safety professional, Captain Mike Hornby ranks EdenPURE® #1 for safety and reliability. The EdenPURE® has no exposed heating elements that can cause a fire.

Accept no imitations

The EdenPURE® can also help you feel better. Unlike other EdenPURE® imitators, it will not reduce humidity or oxygen in the room. These imitators use ceramic plates instead of our patented copper. These inexpensive ceramic plates reduce humidity, dry out your sinuses, make you more susceptible to illness, and make your skin dry. With other heating sources, you'll notice that you get sleepy when the heat comes on because they are burning up oxygen.

How can I cut my heating bill with EdenPURE®?

The 2012 EdenPURE® has a new thermostat and a new high and low setting. This enables you to "turn down" the power on warmer days saving you even more money.

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The EdenPURE® will pay for itself in weeks. It will keep a great deal of extra money in a user's pocket. Because of today's spiraling gas, oil, propane, and other energy costs, the EdenPURE® will provide even greater savings as the time goes by.

Children or pets can come up to the EdenPURE® cabinet and touch it and not be harmed. Pets like my dog are actually drawn to this heat because it is a natural source of heat, just like the sun heats the earth. Animals are much more instinctive than humans. This heat not only heats the air, but it also heats the objects in the room. It is a perfectly balanced heat.

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Dennis Crystal, Troy, MT (Retired Airline Pilot)

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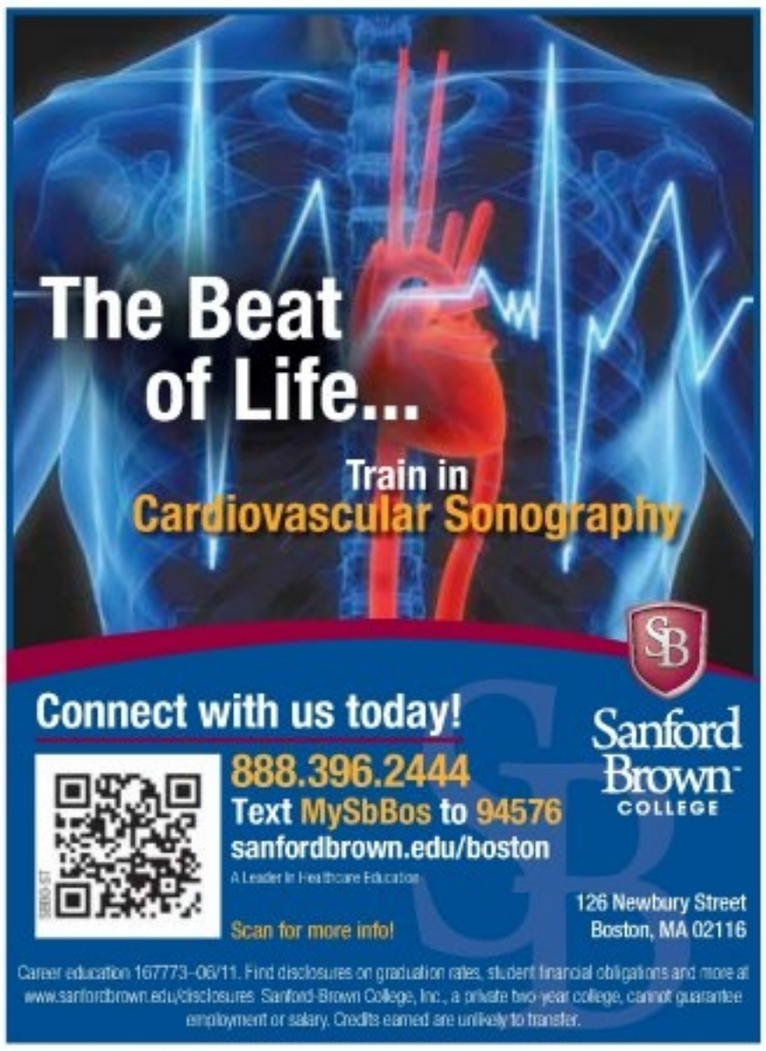

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mydating

Reader love notes

SEND US YOUR LOVE NOTES

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- ***SNUGGLES, U R & WILL ALWAYS B MY TRU LOVE; LOVE ALWAYS BUTTERCUP!***
- *Krystal, my love my life my everything. I love you. Donald*
- ***Ceese..having my best friend, lover, future wife all in one is the greatest gift i could have wished for. TMD..Q***
- *AB: let's tell stories every hour*
- ***Morgan, you are a picture perfect dream come true! Love, Marquise***
- *To Marylin: I am who I am; to the fullest I love thee; the love of my life. ~VIGO*
- ***Valentina N, without you i can't breath, live or smile. 32611- No end. Love you lot - Manny Nestor.***
- *R. Persaud you're my rock, love you - Farah Y.*
- ***I am so lucky to have you n my life, these three years have been the best three years of my life, I love you babe Love, cuddles***
- *FO. ALWAYS SO GOOD! NM.*
- ***Shah, u put smile on my face everyday, mahal kita - edji***
- *Cuba, BX, AM.K.C - Love you today, tomorrow, and always! --Jillian*

Is it OK to call him before the first date?

You met a guy and you'd like to get together If you want to get to know him better, make the first move

Jennifer Lopez? We bet she made the first move.

Shrink wrap

DR. JANE GREER
HEALTH.METRO.US

Jennifer Lopez has a new beau. She was spotted recently with backup dancer Casper Smart in Hawaii after a few weeks of dating. It's hard not to wonder, with every new couple, how they got there. Did he make it easy and call her? Did she have to consider that age-old question: Is it OK to call him? Even when you're rich and famous, you still have to make the call on whether or not you make the call.

Recently, I've been asked this question repeatedly. My answer: If you want the opportunity to get to know him — definitely. If you've just met someone but haven't yet had an official date, then I say sure, go ahead and call. He might want to be in touch with you, but his work could be bogging him down. By reaching out to him, you can rekindle his curiosity and remind him why he wanted to call in the first place. If you call a week later to show you enjoyed meeting him, it might just be the jump-start he needs to get things going.

If you decide to call, it moves you out of the worrying and waiting position, possibly feeling rejected. At the very least, you gave it a shot and took charge. At that point you will get your answer, because he will either respond to your gesture with a plan to get together or he won't.

*— Relationship expert **Dr. Jane Greer** is creator of **"Shrink Wrap"** – national commentary on what we can learn from celebrity relationships – and host of **"Let's Talk Sex"** at **Healthylife.net**. Her book, **"What About Me? Stop Selfishness From Ruining Your Relationship,"** is available nationwide.*

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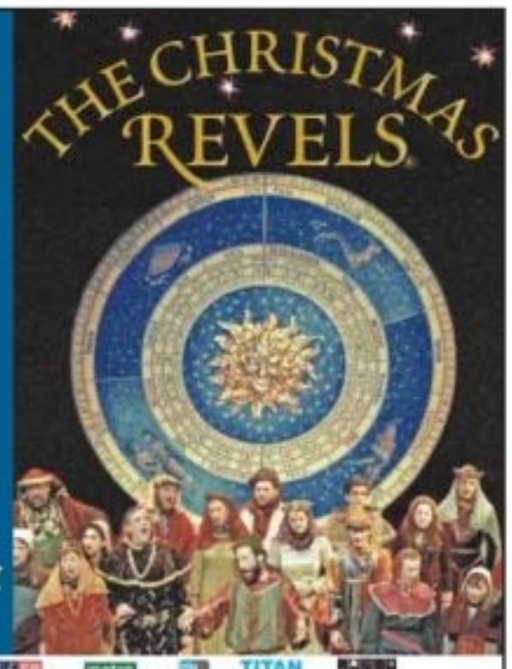

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Letters

letters@metro.us

The Christmas war continues

RE: "'TIS THE SEASON: CHRISTMAS WAR": Metro doesn't owe Jesus an apology. Actually, I think He would thank them because they are actually acknowledging Jesus without even knowing it. The Greek letter (Greek being the language of the New Testament) "X" comes from the Greek letter Chi, which is the first letter of the Greek word "Christ." Thank you, Wikipedia.
ADAM WHELCHEL, VIA E-MAIL

If you're going to be up in arms about something being sacrilegious, maybe you should confirm first that it isn't, in fact, the opposite. Jesus is OK with Metro. **SARA PAIGE, VIA E-MAIL**

I am so frustrated with people condemning the use of "X" as in Xmas! "X" meant Christ to the early Christians — they would write it in the sand to identify themselves.
PETER LEE, VIA E-MAIL

Instead of complaining about this war on Christmas that doesn't exist, could folks concentrate on putting Christ back in Christianity? I suggest making sandwiches and soup for homeless people.
SHONDOLYN GIBSON, ROCKLAND

I love Christmas but enough is enough! The commercialism of this Holy Day is appalling. The late Charles Shultz illustrated the greedy nature of retailers 37 years ago in "It's the Easter Beagle Charlie Brown." Look at the banners in the stores when Marcie and Peppermint Patty are buying eggs to color for Easter: They say "Only 246 days until Xmas."
MALCOLM HANSON, VIA E-MAIL

Meanwhile, in other wars ...

Why are our police forces using all these weapons against protesters? LRAD, pepper spray, rubber bullets, tear gas, tasers, batons and now the experimental use of drones in our own country to "assess situations" ahead of an arrest — coming soon to a peaceful protest near you! You'd almost think we were in the midst of an undeclared civil war. Last I checked, we have a few rights still entrenched in our constitution. Or have these been rescinded while most of us were struggling to pay bills? My ancestors fought to establish and protect our rights. And yet every time I turn around it seems yet another group of citizens, assembled to address concerns, are aggressively attacked by pepper spray, rubber bullets, batons and tasers.
JAN OUTCALT, CAMBRIDGE

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**
Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Try to focus on personal objectives if you can, because for some reason you'll be luckier than usual with anything that serves your interests.
♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Although something beneficial for you is stirring, it may momentarily be screened from your view. Even some associates might know before you.
♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** In the final analysis of things, our real wealth lies in our relationships with others. You're likely to be amply blessed with dear friends.
♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** It behooves you to do what you can to please others, even if it means going out of your way. It's one of those days when genuine kindness will be rewarded.
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** If you keep your attitude positive and philosophical, you can guarantee yourself a good day. That old saying: "Smile and the world smiles with you," will be in fine working order.
♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** There are always financial opportunities surrounding you, albeit not necessarily from previous sources. Once you find a new stream, it can be nurtured to productivity with ease.
♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Because you're shrewd — yet fair — with your counterparts when cutting a new deal, even what needs to be negotiated on a one-on-one basis can work out quite well.
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Something you have for sale that is very attractive to another might be more valuable than both you and your prospect know it to be. Before selling anything, get it appraised.
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Your behavior is likely to enhance your popularity. When friends and associates see the real you, they can't help but be impressed by your warmth.
♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** If and when you choose to assert yourself, an unfinished endeavor can be concluded to your and everybody else's satisfaction. It behooves you to make that choice instead of lying idle.
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** This can be an extremely productive day for you if you choose to assert yourself and work on a new project. Your enthusiasm and interests will be transmitted to the endeavor at hand.
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** This could be a gangbusters day for amassing personal gain. You'll be adequately rewarded for anything you produce that appeals to the masses.
BERNICE BEDE OSOL

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19 Not know from __
20 It moves mountains
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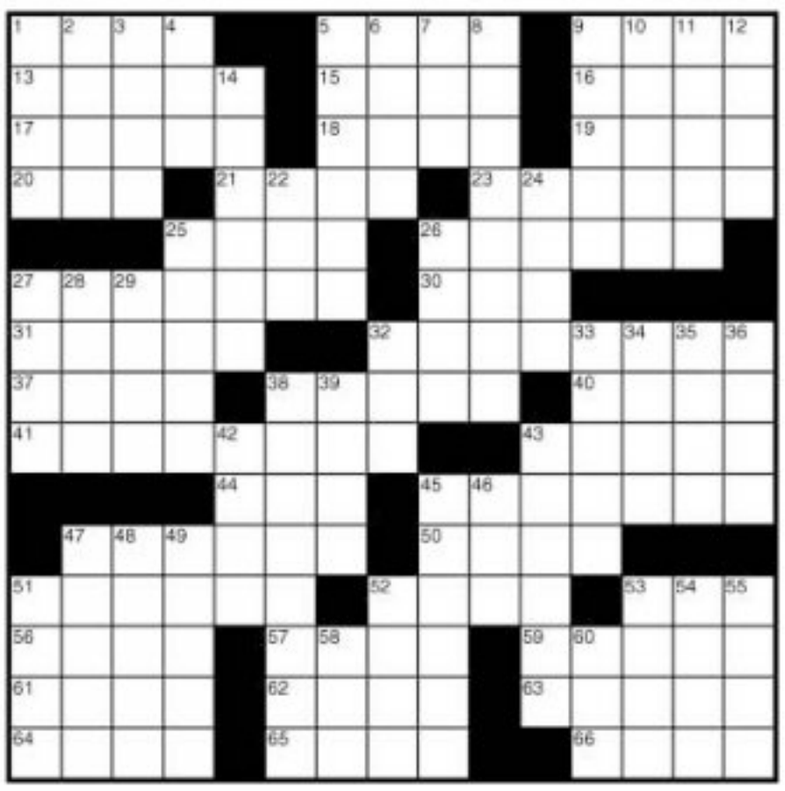
23 35mm settings (hyph.)
25 Mammoth
26 Unit of current
27 After dark
30 Miler Sebastian __
31 Fridge maker
32 Power problem
37 Terra firma
38 Marsh wader
40 Wheel rod
41 Casino employee
43 Pizzeria fixtures
44 Completely
45 Yellow fruits
47 Wagner oeuvres
50 Like Mr. Hyde
51 Stove part
52 Cornstarch brand
53 Fore opposite
56 Novelist __ Bagnold
57 Archipelago dot
59 Firm refusal
61 High point
62 __ does it!
63 Avalanche
64 Beowulf's drink
65 Urges
66 Inventory wd.

Down
1 Part of LAPD
2 Dendrite's partner
3 Pedestal topper
4 Almost grads
5 Deep-red gem
6 West Coast st.
7 Shark habitat
8 Lunar phase (hyph.)
9 Car tag
10 Henry VIII's house
11 Slack-jawed
12 Bottom edges
14 Caviar fish
22 Yuck!
24 Pour out
25 Like Gandhi
26 One of the phobias
27 Dusting powder
28 __ Khayyam
29 Prefix for second
32 Wintry cry
33 Type of blockade
34 Beasts of burden
35 Humerus neighbor
36 Mrs. Dick Tracy
38 Mirth
39 Congers
42 Do a kitchen chore
43 Liver go-with
45 Tams
46 Std.
47 Eighth of a cup
48 __ donna
49 Wound down
51 Smile broadly
52 Arkin or Alda
53 Rah-rah
54 Revenuers
55 Park feature
58 Yon maiden
60 Freddy Krueger's street



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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

C	H	E	A	T	■	E	T	A	T	■	A	H	E	M
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■	■	■	■	A	M	A	H	■	R	A	E	■	■	■
E	L	E	A	N	O	R	■	C	I	C	A	D	A	S
C	O	L	T	S	■	■	G	O	N	E	■	R	N	A
L	I	A	M	■	P	R	O	N	G	■	P	A	I	D
A	R	N	■	B	R	E	A	■	■	M	E	N	S	A
T	E	D	D	I	E	S	■	B	R	A	C	K	E	T
■	■	■	E	L	F	■	N	E	I	N	■	■	■	■
U	T	E	S	■	A	Q	U	A	M	A	R	I	N	E
R	O	L	E	■	C	U	R	S	■	T	E	N	E	T
A	F	A	R	■	E	A	S	T	■	E	A	T	E	R
L	U	N	T	■	D	Y	E	S	■	E	R	O	D	E

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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gift guide

Last-minute gifts

For the hostess with the mostess

2. Bring over these all-natural, ready-to-bake cookie doughs and brownie batters — made with 100 percent whole grains and natural sweeteners — for fresh-out-of-the-oven treats even your pickiest friends will devour. **Sweet Loren's desserts, $8-$9, www.sweetlorens.com**

3. They can claim their drinks — and their place at the table. **Chalk coasters, $20, www.crateandbarrel.com**

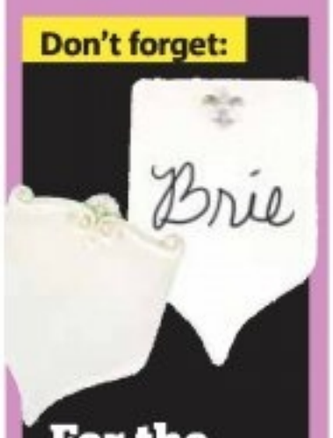
4. Chances are that if she's the kind to throw a fabulous party, she's going to want these underneath all of that pretty silverware. **Hammock & High Tea Drawer Liners, $25, www.hammocksandhightea.com**

5. Warm her home with the scents of the season, no baking required. **Slatkin & Co. Holiday Candle Collections, 4 oz.: $9.50, 14.5 oz.: $19.50, www.bathandbodyworks.com**

6. That pile of dishes won't seem so bad once they bust out their fancy new — and divine-smelling — dish soap. **Caldrea Balsam Fig Plum Dish soap, $9, www.caldrea.com**

7. Something to enjoy when her last guest is finally gone. **Louis de Sacy Grand Cru Rose, $45, wine stores nationwide**

Don't forget:



For the gourmet

These erasable ceramic labels let her guests know what they're nibbling. **Place Tile Designs Scroll Cheese Tile, $30 for a set of 4, www.placetile.com**

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gift guide

Last-minute gifts

Treat your best friend to these

1. You think he got attention before? Try walking him down the street with one of these on. **Mimi Green Collar Bow Ties, $13, www.shopmimigreen.com**

2. Your pooch can lounge in style. **Up Country Pet Futon, $54, www.upcountryinc.com**

3. They deserve Christmas cookies, too. **Gourmet Tails Iced Gingersnap cookies, $2-$5, www.petco.com**

Gifts for a good cause

1. The money raised from the sale of these tattoos goes to the Flying Kites' Child Sponsorship Program and Leadership Academy, which aids orphaned children in Kenya.

2. Keep Joe Strummer's legacy alive. All proceeds from the sale of this calendar — featuring quotes, previously unseen images and hand-written artifacts from the icon — go toward the Joe Strummer New Music Foundation.

3. One hundred percent of all net profits from the sale of these beautiful Same Sky bracelets goes directly to training and hiring African women artisans who are HIV positive. The organization teaches them skills and is expanding into other regions.

Temporary Tattoos, $6, www.thetemporarytattooproject.org

Same Sky Orange Crush Glass Bead Bracelet, $160, www.samesky.com

Forever Strummer 10th Anniversary Calendar, $17, www.strummerville.com

The Miracle Foundation Gifts That Matter donation, $25-$1,000, www.miraclefoundation.org

4. For the person who has everything, give the gift of helping a child who has nothing. The Miracle Foundation aids the 25 million orphaned children living in India. The charity's Gifts That Matter program allows you to choose a much-needed item — from a backpack ($25) to vaccinations ($75) to a water purifier ($1,000) — that will be sent to children on behalf of your loved one.

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gift guide

Last-minute gifts

For kids on Santa's 'nice' list

1. Get them in the kitchen early. **Melissa & Doug Wooden Play Food Fridge Set, $16,** www.jcpenney.com

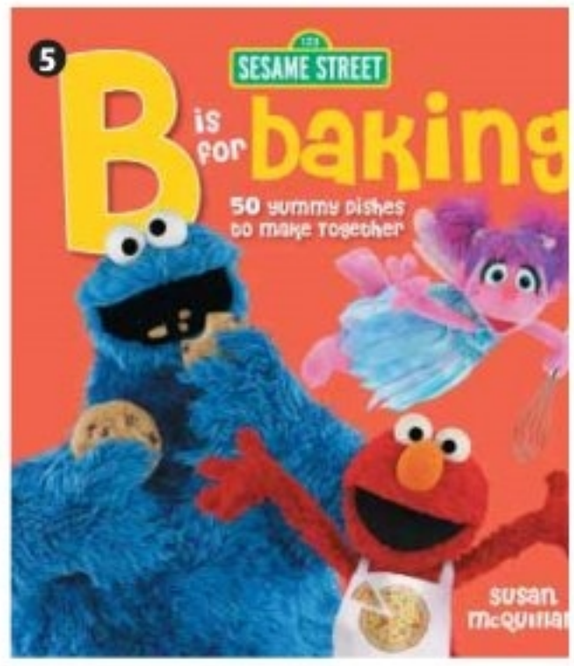
2. When not in the trenches, this 12-inch action figure — with working parachute, helmet and goggles — will look sweet on your boy's shelf. **G.I. JOE 12" U.S. Army Paratrooper, $25,** www.hasbro.com

3. Your little snow bunny won't want to come inside. **L.L.Bean Pull Sled, $139,** www.llbean.com

4. Styling on the way to grandma's house. **Harajuku Mini for Target Tuxedo One-Piece, $20, Target stores nationwide**

5. Mom's little assistant can learn the art of flipping pancakes and frosting cupcakes. **"Sesame Street 'B' is for Baking," $12,** www.amazon.com

6. For the next masterpiece on your fridge, let them use natural paints made from fruits, vegetables, flowers and spices. **GLOB Paint Sets and Craft Sets $15-$30,** www.globiton.com



3 Instances in which it's OK to regift

Most hostess gifts

These are tokens of appreciation for getting everyone tipsy and having a guest room ready to go, not necessarily personalized gifts. Feel free to pass on candy dishes, napkin rings and other home trinkets. As for booze or edibles, be judicious: Most people have terrible taste in wine and chocolate, and you don't want to be one of those people.

▶ Regift that gift card.

Gift cards

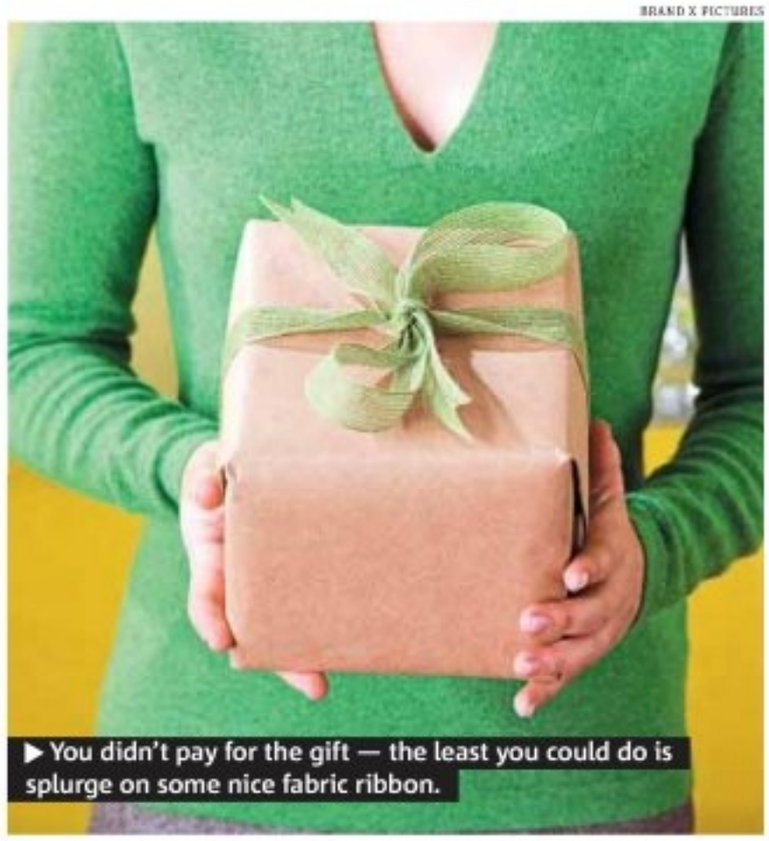
Not to burst your snow globe, but whoever gave you that gift card grabbed it on the way over. Amazon, iTunes, Barnes & Noble, Best Buy: Regift these with comfort and joy. Now, as for that gift certificate to your favorite little neighborhood coffee shop three train stops away from civilization? That's for keeps, you unfeeling grinch.

Something you'd like to keep ...

... if you only had the counter space. Or didn't have one already. Or had pierced ears. If you genuinely like and want it but won't realistically use it. Then it's OK to pass on to someone who will. That said, err on the side of gift-giving caution: It should be wrapped like you mean it and accompanied by an overpriced Etsy card that will feed an artist for a week.

MONICA WEYMOUTH
monica.weymouth@metro.us

BRAND X PICTURES


▶ You didn't pay for the gift — the least you could do is splurge on some nice fabric ribbon.

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AMES

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gift guide

A gift fit for McQueen

Gift wrap pro Alton DuLaney gives us a primer on packaging presents perfectly Your family and friends will be just as impressed with the outside of the box as its contents

When Alton DuLaney visited this year's Alexander McQueen exhibit at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, the gift wrapping expert was inspired — and he wasn't ready to leave that inspiration behind. Instead, he's working elements from the McQueen show into his gift wrapping this year, and he gave Metro instructions on how you can turn your own presents into beautiful works of art.

MEREDITH ENGEL
meredith.engel@metro.us

PHOTOS: EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN/METRO

▶ For a video demonstration and more gift wrapping ideas from DuLaney, visit www.metro.us/gifts.

▶ McQueen's butterflies

GETTY IMAGES

All eyes on butterflies

▶ **STEP 1: Wrap it up.**
"Give it a base wrap. This is just your standard gift wrap: clean corners, crisp edges. Wrap your box in whatever paper that you choose."

▶ **STEP 2: Tape it down**
"These butterflies all come on a wire. I'm putting everything in the center, and I'm just using my Scotch Pop-Up Tape to tape down a few of these, and then I'm just bending them out of the way."

▶ **STEP 3: Finish the look**
"I tape my ribbon underneath, and then you just adjust [the butterflies] because these are all wire. Adjust them up."

▶ Step 1

▶ Step 2

▶ DuLaney's butterflies

DuLaney's tips

- **Crisscross your ribbon on top.** "You always want your bottom to be flat," he says. "If you have that bump, your gift can rock."
- **Use wire-ribbed ribbon.** "[It's] a breeze to work with because you can shape it."
- **Don't cut your ribbon until the end.** "You never cut until your bow's actually tied," he says. "That way, you see how much you need and you don't waste ribbon."
- **Keep 'em separated.** "I always have a separate pair of scissors for ribbon because paper can dull [them], especially if you're cutting through glitter."

drink

ROCK, WITHOUT THE HARD EDGE

Revolution becomes Julep Bar ◗ Say goodbye to the b-level Hard Rock Cafe vibe ◗ New space now offers a soft, lounge feel ◗ Redesign from the Blue Inc. team

THURSTY
LUKE O'NEIL
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ERIN BALDASSARI/METRO

▶ Julep works for a casual beer or classic cocktail.

The drinking experience at nightclubs is dreadful unless you are into being ignored by indifferent women in tube tops — which sounds like my early 20s, come to think of it. But does it have to be? Yes, it does.

OK, maybe not. Boston has welcomed a slate of clubs this year that have aimed to enhance the cocktail experience in the club setting, like Descent, Storyville and the most recent Financial District opening, Julep. The rebranding of a onetime rock 'n' roll-themed club, Julep has one thing going for it already: At least it's not Revolution Rock Bar.

Trish LaCount, the consulting beverage director of Julep, also runs the show at Blue Inc. — which is connected not only in spirit, but literally. The two share a kitchen, and Julep's owners have a part interest in Blue Inc. LaCount is conscious of the disconnect between quality at the bar and a downtown Boston nightlife atmosphere.

"Revolution was a great place at one point," she says. "I think, oftentimes in the club scene in particular, you have to refresh. With us coming in at Blue Inc., it drove the change that they wanted to make over there."

To that effect, LaCount has installed a menu of old cocktails and higher-quality spirits than you'd usually find getting spilled all over your shoes on a dance floor.

"Revolution ran into the problem that it really had the look of a nightclub even when it was five in the afternoon," she says. "I think that can be off-putting."

The redesign of the room has given it a softer, lounge feel than a twentysomething's first post-Hard Rock Cafe training-wheel bar.

"It's a challenge to switch from such a club-driven environment and cater to the after-work crowd. So far we've been really successful, really lucky — and conceptually, we're where we want to be."

If you go

Julep Bar
200 High St., Boston
617-261-4200
www.julepbar.com

Julep's concept

The concept of Julep differs from LaCount's designs at Blue Inc., which tend toward the whimsical and experimental. The menu offers traditional classics, like a Corpse Reviver, Aviation, Paloma and the bar's namesake, Julep. She's got an eye on the trendy-classic cocktail programs that have thrived, but would like to cut out the pretension, she says. If all goes well her standards will persist, even when the sure-to-be-crowded bar transitions into a night spot. To alleviate that potential problem, the featured cocktail menu will only be available until 10 p.m. on Monday through Friday. LaCount attests: "The people coming in after work are not the same people coming in at midnight on a Friday. We're in the perfect area for it. That area is screaming for something a little more high-end. We're happy to do it."

hot tickets

Holidays? Bah humbug! Occupy? Bah humbug!

Adam Carolla got a lot of attention for his rants against a certain socio-economic movement But the comedian says if you're talking about his political views, everything else must be OK with the world Also, the guy doesn't really hate the holidays

By the time comedian Adam Carolla brings his holiday show to Boston, the season to be merry will be all over. Given the Scrooge-like title of his show — "Adam Carolla Hates the Holidays" — you'd think he'd be pleased. But, in fact, Carolla absolutely loves the holidays. Holiday stress? No way, says the Los Angeles native.

"We figured out a way to attach stress to vacations and holidays. I'm sure there'll be some sort of fatigue syndrome for people who get oral sex," says the former "Loveline" and "Man Show" co-host. "For me, there is nothing better than the smell of that Christmas tree and putzing around in my robe all day with Bing Crosby playing. For a person who works a lot, I always feel like I have some sort of deadline. Having one day where there's nothing to do, nothing's open, it's noon and I'm having a beer is the best."

Plan ahead

'Adam Carolla Hates the Holidays'
Friday, Jan. 20, 7 p.m.
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15 Lansdowne St.
$24-$45, 800-745-3000
www.livenation.com

The supposed curmudgeon also finds a bright side to the reaction his recent anti-Occupy rant caused.

"It's a good sign that so many people heard my rant on the Internet," he says of his podcast. "It means we have no problems, as a society. ... That's why we have news stories about what some comedian said. Is that a news story, some comedian saying something off-color? That's newsworthy?"

His words, which in essence said parents giving "participation trophies" to undeserving kids is what caused Occupy Wall Street and its offshoots. The story was on many a homepage earlier this month.

"I do commentary and jokes for a living," he adds. "I'm not a politician, I don't make policy. When you don't have clean drinking water, then you don't worry about this kind of thing."

LINDA LABAN
linda.laban@metro.us

This man says his Grinch routine is often just that, a routine.

Trading his mom for laughs

"It's not funny if you are up onstage and someone yells 'What do you think of your mother' and you say, 'I love her dearly.' But if you say, 'That old bitch,' then you get a laugh. Of course, if your mom hears it she'll get pissed, but when I'm onstage I'll take my mom getting pissed over not getting a laugh."

Tickets

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▶ **Tool**
Jan. 28
TD Garden
(On sale Saturday)

▶ **Celtic Woman**
March 16
Verizon Wireless Arena
Manchester, NH
(On sale Friday)

▶ **Creed**
April 27
The Orpheum
(On sale Friday)

▶ Coldplay

▶ **Coldplay**
July 29
TD Garden
(On sale Saturday)

On stage

A Christmas Celtic Sojourn

Friday through Sunday
Cutler Majestic Theatre
219 Tremont St., Boston
$25-75, 617-824-8000
www.aestages.org

WGBH's Brian O'Donavan, like a Santa of Celtic music, returns again with performers including Ruth Moody of the Waylin' Jennys, Hanneke Cassel and her group Halali, Simon Chrisman (playing hammer dulcimer), Kieran O'Hare (playing uilleann pipes) and Seamus Egan of Solas — plus some surprises. Get your tickets ASAP; this one tends to sell out.

Pink Martini

Friday and Saturday
Berklee Performance Center
136 Mass. Ave., Boston
$30-65, 617-747-2261

JAMES CHEANG

▶ Of course Pink Martini can make "We Three Kings" sound sexy.

www.berkleebpc.com

This Oregon ensemble mixes Latin music, jazz, cabaret, '40s and '50s movie songs, and much more into a unique cocktail that's highly eclectic without becoming incoherently diverse. At this show they'll be performing a holiday repertoire drawn from their 2010 release "Joy to the World," including what may be the slinkiest version of "We Three Kings" on record.

MATTHEW DINARO

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Sunday, June 24, 2012, 3:00 pm
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The roundup

THEATER

'The Merry Wives of Windsor'
Through Jan. 1
Davis Square Theatre
255 Elm St., Somerville
$28-$50, 866-811-4111
www.actorsshakespeareproject.org
The Actors' Shakespeare Company performs this comedy, the only Shakespeare play with a setting in Elizabethan England, even though its hero, the plump, buffoonish knight Falstaff, had last been seen in the "Henry IV" plays, set 200 years earlier. Shakespeare never explained this, but presumably Falstaff hitched a ride in the TARDIS, as all fictional British characters eventually do.

'Woyzeck'
Through Saturday
College of Fine Arts, Boston University
855 Comm. Ave., Boston
Free, woyzeck.bu@gmail.com
www.bu.edu/cfa/
BU's School of Theatre presents this famously unfinished Georg Buchner play, a protomodernist tale from the 19th century of a decent man who succumbs to the demons of contemporary life. Director Steve Ginsburg's version moves the action to a different theatre during the performance. Tickets are free but limited — you must contact the e-mail address above to reserve a seat.

'The Friends of Eddie Coyle'
Through Jan. 15
Oberon
2 Arrow St., Cambridge
$20-$35, 866-811-4111
www.cluboberon.com
StickBall Productions presents this play, based on the eponymous novel by George V. Higgins, a U.S. attorney in Boston whose fiction portrayed the criminal underworld of late '60s Boston with an unromantic realism. The characters are fictionalized, but Coyle is generally believed to be a stand-in for Billy O'Brien, an associate of Whitey Bulger with a similar story.

Music

MIT Gamelan Galak Tika and Terry Riley

Tonight, 7:30
Kresge Auditorium, MIT
48 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
$10-$20, 617-253-2826
www.galaktika.org/terryriley
A Gamelan is an Indonesian orchestra largely composed of percussive instruments like gongs and metallophones. At this concert, pioneering composer Terry Riley will join MIT's gamelan group, Galak Tika, to perform his new work "White Space Conflict." Watch them unite east and west, tradition and modernity, digital and analog, and probably lots of other commonly opposed concepts.

Art

Annual Kwanzaa Concert

Friday and Saturday
Media Arts Building, Roxbury Community College
1234 Columbus Ave., Boston
$15-$18, 617-541-1875
www.originationinc.org
OrigiNation, a nonprofit community organization based in Roxbury, presents a concert in honor of the annual winter celebration of African-American identity, featuring students of its Performing Arts Program as well as NIA Dance Troupe, Girlz of

IMANI, IMANI Jr., Aleye Boyz Troupe, and the spoken word artist Omekongo.

DANCE

Christmas Reflections
Friday through Sunday
Robsham Theatre, Boston College
140 Comm. Ave., Chestnut Hill
$15, 617-552-4002
www.bc.edu
This is a mix of a Christmas-themed of story, music, and dance choreographed by Robert VerEecke, BC's Jesuit artist-in-residence, with Irish step dances performed by the O'Dwyer School of Irish Dancing. VerEecke is known locally for his much-loved piece "A Dancer's Christmas," which he retired in 2008; some of the pieces at this show originated there. Others are brand new.

Abbots Bromley Horn Dance
Wednesday, 6 p.m.
Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge
$7-9, 617-495-3045
www.hmnh.harvard.edu
Nowadays, most people celebrate the Winter Solstice by burning an effigy of Justin Bieber at sunset and chanting "Ba-by, ba-by, ba-by" in a falsetto until sunrise, but in ancient England they had the hypnotic, mysterious "horn dance," which the Pinewoods Morris Men will perform here, with horn-based music by David Coffin and an introduction from Patrick Swanson of Revels. And speaking of Revels ... Note: This is where your eyes should go to the next line!

MOVIES

Vintage Holiday Show
Sunday, 2 p.m.
Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St., Cambridge
Free, 617-495-4700
hcl.harvard.edu/hfa
The Harvard Film Archive presents a set of family-friendly, mostly 16 mm clips with holiday themes, all drawn from the Howard E. Burr Collection. In the spirit of the season, they're keeping the list of films a surprise, but we're told it will include a mix of animation, short films, and commercials from the '50s through the '70s.

COMEDY

Gary Gulman
Saturday
Remington's
124 Boylston St., Boston
$15-$20, 800-401-2221
www.beantowncomedy.com
In school, Peabody native Gary Gulman was good-looking, a star athlete, and a model student. Perhaps that's why his comedy is so free of angst and cynicism. His only real source of bitterness seems to be the grapefruit, which he calls vile and inedible, valuable only as "something to compare the size of a tumor to."

MUSIC

The Christmas Revels
Friday through Dec. 29
Sanders Theatre
45 Quincy St., Cambridge
$15-$52, 617-496-2222
www.revels.org
A unique annual holiday performance experience integrating music, dance, comedy and carols from England, France, Spain, and the Middle East. Lots of singing along is encouraged. Expect Revels favorites like "The Shortest Day", "The Sussex Mummers Carol", "Dona Nobis Pacem", and centerpiece "The Lord of the Dance", which, we promise, has nothing to do with Michael Flatley.

MATTHEW DINARO

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Next to be 'Tebowed'?

Broncos unorthodox quarterback is hottest name in the league and 7-1 as starter Winning big despite poor QB rating of 83.9 in 2011 season

GETTY IMAGES

Tim Tebow will take on the 10-3 Patriots on Sunday in a possible playoff preview.

Depending on who you ask, Tim Tebow is either the best thing to happen to the NFL, or the worst.

Tebow is now 7-1 as a starter, and currently on a six-game winning streak heading into Sunday against the Patriots.

Of course many never believed in the quarterback on the other side of the field once upon a time.

Tom Brady was drafted with the 199th overall pick in 2000, essentially labeled as someone who wouldn't make it long in the NFL.

"Not everyone is high picks and not everyone gets a lot of chances right out of the box, but when you do get your opportunity, you really try to take advantage of your opportunity and do your best, and, give everything you have," Brady said.

Tebow said he had some help along the way.

"I think my biggest focus is every day just trying to be the best teammate, trying to honor the Lord with how I play and how I live, and trying to work to be a better quarterback, better teammate, be focused, have a great attitude," he said. "And that's really been my outlook on everything and not necessarily what people are saying about me."

JIMMY TOSCANO
sports@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES

Lowrie

Sox deal Lowrie, Papelbon replaced?

Red Sox shortstop Jed Lowrie was traded yesterday along with pitcher Kyle Weiland in exchange for Houston closer Mark Melancon, according to several reports.

A former Yankees draft pick in 2006, Melancon enjoyed his first MLB success this past season with the Astros, saving 20 games in 25 opportunities. METRO

Tomorrow

Stopping Tebow

Metro gives you a full preview of Pats-Broncos.

How does New England prevent itself from becoming the next on the list of teams to fall prey to Tebow Time?

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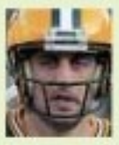

Aaron Rodgers and the Packers play an aggressive brand of football. And they are going to attack a perfect record aggressively. Owners can safely expect the starters to play all out through Week 17. They won't pull a Colts on us.

LESSONS FROM LOSING

If you blame injuries, bad luck or an unfair schedule for your team's demise, you're likely to lose again.

We need to start pointing the finger at ourselves for unsuccessful seasons. Just like a real NFL team, we have to learn from our mistakes before we can move forward.

When next season comes around, remember the pain of these failures:

Handcuffing 101

Darren McFadden's Lisfranc injury is nothing to complain about — as long as you drafted **Michael Bush** as well. The same can be said for **Fred Jackson**/**C.J. Spiller**, **Adrian Peterson**/**Toby Gerhart** and **Arian Foster**/**Ben Tate**. If your starting running back has a talented backup, you must reach to handcuff them.

Backs with no hands

These days, one-dimensional running backs are not worth the risk. Players like **Michael Turner**, **Shonn Greene** and **LeGarrette Blount** are wildly inconsistent because they can't function when their team trails. Their big plays are also limited.

Stash wideout fliers

Here are some top-25 players at the receiver position: **Jordy Nelson**, **Victor Cruz**, **Laurent Robinson** and **Antonio Brown**. All could have been had off the wire or late in drafts.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Michael Bush saved the season for Darren McFadden owners.

Top NFL pickups

Felix Jones

▶ **RB, Cowboys**
With DeMarco Murray out for the year, Jones is fresh and the every-down back in Dallas once again.

James Jones

▶ **WR, Packers**
We always knew Jones had explosive talent. Now he gets a full-time role thanks to Greg Jennings' injury.

Jake Locker

▶ **QB, Titans**
Locker has elite running ability and a cannon arm. That's a recipe for fantasy success if he starts.

Hoops is back

Here are three big names to avoid in fantasy basketball drafts:

1 Kobe Bryant, SG, LAL — Kobe's minutes sunk all the way to 33.9 last season. Thanks to the compact schedule, he'll dip to 31 or so.

2 Carlos Boozer, PF, CHI — Boozer doesn't block or steal and shoots free throws poorly. His offensive role is also declining thanks to Derrick Rose.

3 Tim Duncan, PF, SAS — Duncan is at the end of the line. He'll miss at least 15 games and be a shell of himself in others.

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